

Vireo philadelphicus in Cambridge, Mass.—On the 27th of September, 1894, a boy brought in a Philadelphia Vireo which he had just killed in the museum grounds. Looking through 'The Auk,' and the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, I find only three records for this bird in Massachusetts, viz.: Cambridge, Sept. 7, 1875 (B. N. O. C., I, 19), Magnolia, Sept. 18, 1879 (*id.*, V, 53), and Brookline, Sept. (*id.*, VI, 56). It seems likely that the vernal passage of this Vireo to its breeding places in northern New England is made to the westward of Massachusetts—perhaps up the Hudson River valley, where both the male and female have been taken in May, at Troy, N. Y. (B. N. O. C., V, 239).—WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

The Prothonotary Warbler in Massachusetts.—Mr. J. W. Thompson picked up on the morning of Sept. 15, 1894, on the depot platform at Mattapan Station, N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., a dead Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). The damaged bill and breast showed plainly that it met its death by striking against one of the mass of telegraph wires that were hanging directly over the spot where it was found.—M. ABBOTT FRAZER, *Boston, Mass.*

The Winter Wren a Night Singer. — In the long list of birds that sing in the night I do not remember to have seen the name of the Winter Wren. That it sometimes sings on clear wintry days during its temporary sojourn in the vicinity of Philadelphia is probably well known to certain favored people. A bird of this species has for several years made the fastnesses of a thick hemlock hedge in my yard at Haddonfield, N. J., his winter home, and he sometimes favors me with a song in the early morning, even when the ground is covered with snow. Not content with this, he surprised me the other night, about ten o'clock, by one of his sweetest efforts. The song on this occasion was not so loud as that of more wakeful moments, but well-sustained for more than half the usual duration of the nuptial song, and then falling into a scarcely audible trill, as if the little dreamer had waked in the midst of his vision and, like more human sleepers, was reluctant to believe its unreality.—SAMUEL N. RHODES, *Haddonfield, N. J.*

A Belated Mockingbird in Eastern Massachusetts.—On Nov. 25, 1894, I secured a male Mockingbird in good condition in a buckthorn hedge near my house. The weather was rough, with squalls of snow, but not cold. Previously, however, the thermometer had registered as low as 14°, with snow enough to make good sleighing.

The 'escaped cage bird' theory, which naturally occurs at once, does not apply here (unless braced up with a supplementary theory that the escape was remote enough to allow the bird to make himself over), the plumage and feet being in perfect condition.

There are quite a number of records for eastern Massachusetts, the latest appearing to be as follows: One reported by Torrey, Marshfield, Aug. 15, 1889 (O. & O., Sept., 1889); one by Miller, Provincetown, Sept. 11, 1890 (Auk, Jan., 1891); one by Mackay, Nantucket, Nov. 20, 1890 (Auk, Jan., 1891); one by Cory (young of the year), Hyannis, Aug. 30, 1891 (Auk, Oct., 1891). The first named is of special interest, being in the spotted plumage and accompanied by three or four others, a fair inference being that a brood had been hatched in the vicinity.

The breeding of the species farther west, near Springfield, has been a matter of several records, the latest, I think, being that of R. O. Morris (Auk, Jan., 1892), who says "a pair passed this, the fourth successive season, in West Springfield."

In view of the above, can we not abandon the cage bird idea for this section?—F. C. BROWNE, *Framingham, Mass.*

The Willow Thrush (*Turdus fuscescens salicicolus*) a **Migrant in Northeastern Illinois**.—I am indebted to Mr. Ridgway for the identification of two "very typical" specimens of this Thrush that were collected by the writer the past spring (1894), at Glen Ellyn, Ill., a male being secured on the 6th and a female on the 21st of May.

Since Mr. Coale's original record,¹ only one other specimen, taken by him at Ravenia, Ill., May 17, 1890, referred to in July, 1894, number of 'The Auk,' and now in the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago, has been taken to my knowledge in this State. It is of interest, therefore, to note that on the day of the last capture, May 21, at least two others were seen.

This fall I have found it to be a regular migrant here, specimens being taken Aug. 29 (the date of my 'first,' although a doubtful record, was made three days earlier), and again on Sept. 4, when one was also noticed. Others were here Sept. 1 (1) and Sept. 6 (2); the last one, a single bird, was recorded on the 8th of the month.

In view of the foregoing, supplemented with the general information furnished me by Dr. Merriam, some time ago, that the Agricultural Department at Washington has on file additional Mississippi Valley records of *salicicolus*, it would be well for the observers of Illinois in particular to keep a better lookout for this bird, as it will doubtless prove to be more plentiful with us than has been previously supposed.—BENJ. T. GAULT, *Glen Ellyn, Ill.*

Two Records from Keokuk, Iowa.—On the 16th of December, 1892, I shot a specimen of *Junco hyemalis shufeldti* on the Illinois shore just opposite this city. It was with several other Juncos, all, as far as I could tell, of the common variety.

¹ Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1883, p. 239.